

The Iniquity of Our Fathers (Leviticus 26:40-42)

Sermon Devotional

Series: God Speaks on Race

Dr. David H. Rhoades - July 5, 2020

1. What physical characteristics of your parents did you inherit?
2. What habits (good or bad) of your parents did you inherit?

Digging Deeper

3. Read Leviticus 26:40-42 or access Pastor David's message at broadviewchurch.com/media.
4. In these verses, the Lord indicates that restoration between him and his people can occur when confession is not only made of their sins, but also the sins that their ancestors committed. Have you inherited any sins from your parents?
5. Compare Exodus 20:5 and Ezekiel 18:20. Does it appear to you that they teach contradictory truths?
6. To answer this apparent (but not actual) contradiction, we must understand that the Hebrew word for "iniquity" expresses "sin *with its results*." One of the results of sin is that it makes us culpable—directly guilty and deserving blame—for our sins. Yet another result of sin is that it corrupts—spiritually pollutes—us and others. Spiritual corruption is like an infection that spreads to people who did nothing deserving of blame.
7. Read Ezra 9:5-15. Notice that he confesses the iniquities of Israel's forefathers.

Bringing It Home

8. The enslavement of humans was a sin committed by our nation's forefathers. Although none of us today are culpable for this iniquity, it undoubtedly has corrupted the spiritual atmosphere of our society. To become whole, one step we must make is to confess this iniquity to the Lord.
 9. Are you suffering the personal effects of other sins committed by your forefathers? Take a moment to confess those to the Lord.
-